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SUBJECT: PM MALIKI VISIT WILL HIGHLIGHT EU COMMITMENT TO IRAQ

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(SBU) Iraqi Prime Minister Maliki's April 16 meetings in Brussels will, according to EU officials, send a strong signal that the EU is engaging on and committed to Iraq. Maliki and his entourage, including the Foreign Minister, Oil Minister, Interior Minister, Defense Minister and National Security Advisor, among others, will meet with EU Council HiRep Solana, Commission President Barroso, Slovenian Presidency FM Rupel, and European Parliament President Poettering. Following his meeting with Poettering he will address the European Parliament Foreign Affairs Committee. Contacts said the EU has no enormous expectations for the visit, but they will use this opportunity to reinforce messages on the importance of political inclusiveness and to reiterate EU commitment to Iraq. UN Special Representative for Iraq Staffan Di Mistura's April 11 briefing to the Council's Political and Security Committee will serve as curtain raiser for the Maliki visit. The Maliki visit will also serve to inform the EU prior to the April 29 meeting of EU Foreign Ministers (GAERC), where they will review progress in Iraq.

MURRAY

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